

The Old Barracks
Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Old Barracks
Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey

Owner: State of New Jersey

Date of Erection: 1758 - '59

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Good; it has been completely
restored

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - field stone

Interior walls - panel and
plaster
The floors random width oak;
the cornices, porches, and
columns are wood; the windows
are double hung sash with
plank frames; the plan of the
building is U shape.

Inside chimneys

Roof - pitch, slate

Historical Data:

The Old Barracks were built to quarter English troops during the French and Indian War. They were begun on May 31, 1759 and finished in March, 1759. An addition for quartering officers was erected in December, 1759. The law to provide these barracks passed the Council and the General Assembly of the

OLD BARRACKS, TRENTON

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colony on April 15, 1758. The purpose of the act was to put an end to the quartering of soldiers in private homes.

The Old Barracks is the finest specimen of colonial barracks in the United States. It was one of the five buildings erected in New Jersey during the French and Indian War, and is the only one left.

The history of this building is unusual. The first troops quartered in it were Highlanders, who occupied the building in 1759. During the Revolution American soldiers, English soldiers, Hessian mercenaries, Tory refugees, and prisoners of war were sheltered in the building. Some Moravian Indians were lodged in the barracks during the Pontiac War.

After the close of the Revolution the building was not used, and was sold in 1787 by the State to William Ogden and William Harrison. Front Street was extended from Willow Street to the State House, and a portion of the structure was demolished during the lengthening of Front Street. This left the north wing standing on one side of the street and the south wing and part of the main structure on the other side. The north wing was converted into three residences. The porches were removed from the south wing, and this portion was purchased and occupied by the Widows' and Single Women's Home Society. In 1902, this portion was purchased from the society by contributions from citizens of the State. The north wing was purchased later and the work of restoration was begun. In 1914 the Barracks was deeded to the State of New Jersey.

The Old Barracks stands today practically the same as when it was originally erected. It is

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furnished throughout in the style of the period. The upper floor of the officer's quarters is devoted to a Museum. The building is cared for by the Old Barracks Association.

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Field Book of Survey

Walter C. Rutt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

Rev. Aug 20 36 - T.W.

ADDENDUM TO
OLD BARRACKS
South Willow Street
Trenton
Mercer County
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